

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04681 250741Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /096 W
-----041088 250751Z /16

R 250705Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2472
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4681

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SA, AF, PK
SUBJECT: AFGHANS LEAVING JIDDA

REF: (A) JIDDA 4400 (B) TEHRAN 5913

1. AFGHAN CHARGE MEHR TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT EXODUS OF AFGHANI WORKERS REPORTED REF A WAS CAUSED BY NEW SAUDI VISA AND IMMIGRATION LAWS WHICH IS FORCING DEPARTURE OF WORKERS WHO ARRIVED IN KINGDOM AFTER DECEMBER 11, 1977 (NOT 1,1/78 AS REPORTED REF A). THIS POLICY HAS ALSO AFFECTED OTHER NATIONALITIES AND LOCAL OFFICER OF PAKISTAN AND EGYPTIAN AIRLINES HAVE BEEN SWAMPED WITH CUSTOMERS FOR LAST FEW WEEKS. ILLEGAL RESIDENTS MUST BE OUT OF COUNTRY BY JULY 5 OR FACE ARREST.

2. MEHR SAID THAT DESPITE INDIVIDUAL HARDSHIPS AND LOSS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESULTING FROM EXODUS, AFGHAN GOVERNMENT NOT OVERLY CONCERNED SINCE THIS GROUP REPRESENTS SMALL PROPORTION OF AFGHANISTAN'S OVERSEAS LABOR FORCE. FURTHERMORE, HE NOTED THAT AFGHANIS HAVE BEEN FACING LABOR SHORTAGE AT HOME, AS BOTH SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKERS
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SEEK HIGHER WAGES IN IRAN AND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

3. BECAUSE OF AFGHANI CAMPS ESTABLISHED ON STREETS AND AROUND JIDDA AIRPORT AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OF RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES IN AFGHANISTAN, JIDDA RUMOR MILLS HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURING STORIES OF REASONS FOR THEIR EXODUS. ACCORDING TO ONE RUMOR TOLD TO DAL OFFICER BY

PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT, AFGHANIS WERE RETURNING TO NATIVE
VILLAGES TO DEFEND INTEGRITY OF TRIBAL LANDS AND CUSTOMS
AGAINST POSSIBLE INCURSIONS BY NEW GOVERNMENT. COMMENT:
WE BELIEVE THIS DIPLOMAT'S IMAGINATION HAS BEEN WORKING
OVERTIME.
WEST

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, FOREIGN WORKERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-0088
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From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780622/aaaaathp.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFGHANS LEAVING JIDDA
TAGS: PEPR, SA, AF, PK
To: STATE ISLAMABAD
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